

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim
~~33~~ 35, wherein:

said plurality of pavement markers comprise temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs).

15. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 14, wherein:

said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) have substantially L-shaped configurations comprising a normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member and a normally vertically oriented relatively long leg member.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 15, wherein:

said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) are disposed within said nested array with respect to each other, prior to the serial dispensing and application of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) onto the pavement surface, by having a normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) disposed atop a normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of a successive one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs).

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:

[said plurality of normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg members of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) are disposed atop one another when said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) are disposed within said nested array; and]

portions of said single release sheet, to which all

of said blocks of adhesive material of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) are adhered, are interposed between successive ones of said nested, normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg members of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs).

18. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 17, wherein:

each one of said portions of said single release sheet, interposed between said successive ones of said nested, normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg members of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs), defines a folded loop, set inwardly with respect to an edge portion of each one of said blocks of adhesive material, such that when each one of said folded loops is unfolded in connection with the serial dispensing and application of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) onto the pavement surface, a feather-edge bond structure, defined at a boundary region between each folded loop portion of said release sheet and each one of said blocks of adhesive material, is able to be effectively recombined with a respective one of

said blocks of adhesive material so as to effectively permit said feather-edge bond structure to be completely assimilated within said block of adhesive material and thereby readily permit the easy separation, peeling, and stripping of said release sheet from each one of said blocks of adhesive material.

19. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 17, wherein:

each one of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs), having said substantially L-shaped configurations comprising said normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg members and said normally vertically oriented relatively long leg members, has a predetermined lateral width dimension; and

said single release sheet has a predetermined lateral width dimension which is greater than said predetermined lateral width dimension of each one of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) such that side edge portions of said single release sheet extend beyond side edge portions of each one of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs).

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim
~~33~~ 35, wherein:

said means for causing said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers to be separated from said plurality of pavement markers, disposed within said collated array of pavement markers, so as to be capable of being applied to the pavement surface, comprises a stripper plate around which said single release sheet is routed so as to strip said single release sheet from said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers in order to expose said block of adhesive material disposed upon said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers such that said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers can be fixedly applied to the pavement surface.

21. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 20, further comprising:

an indexable roller, around which said single release sheet is routed, for indexably moving said single release sheet predetermined distances so as to serially dispense individual ones of said pavement markers at predeter-

mined times such that said pavement markers will be fixedly applied onto the pavement surface at the predeterminedly spaced positions located along the pavement surface.

22. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 21, further comprising:

a drive motor operatively connected to said indexable roller; and

a program logic controller (PLC) operatively connected to said drive motor so as to energize said drive motor at predetermined times so as to cause said drive motor to operate said indexable roller at predetermined times in order to indexably advance said single release sheet with respect to said stripper plate.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 15, [further comprising] wherein:

said block of adhesive material is secured to said

normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs);

said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers, separated and removed from said single release sheet, has an orientation wherein said normally vertically oriented relatively long leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) is oriented horizontally so as to be disposed upon the pavement surface, while said normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) is oriented vertically; and

an applicator wheel is provided for rollably engaging said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers disposed upon the pavement surface so as to cause each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) to be re-oriented wherein said normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) is oriented horizontally whereby said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers is able to be fixedly secured to the pavement surface at a predetermined one of the predeterminedly spaced positions located along the pavement surface as a result of said block of adhesive material secured to said normally horizontally oriented relatively

short leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) is secured to the pavement surface, while said normally vertically oriented relatively long leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) is oriented vertically so as to perform its pavement marker function.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~34~~ 36, further comprising the steps of:

providing said plurality of pavement markers as temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) having substantially L-shaped configurations comprising a normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member and a normally vertically oriented relatively long leg member; and

disposing said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) within said nested array with respect to each other, prior to the serial dispensing and application of

said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) onto the pavement surface, by having a normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) disposed atop a normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of a successive one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs).

26. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

[disposing said plurality of normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg members of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) atop one another when said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) are disposed within said nested array; and]

interposing portions of said single release sheet between successive ones of said nested, normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg members of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs).

27. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 26, further comprising the step of:

forming each one of said portions of said single release sheet, interposed between said successive ones of said nested, normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg members of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs), into a folded loop, set inwardly with respect to an edge portion of each one of said blocks of adhesive material, such that when each one of said folded loops is unfolded in connection with the serial dispensing and application of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) onto the pavement surface, a feather-edge bond structure, defined at a boundary region between each folded loop portion of said release sheet and each one of said blocks of adhesive material, is able to be effectively re-combined with a respective one of said blocks of adhesive material so as to effectively permit said feather-edge bond structure to be completely assimilated within said block of adhesive material and thereby readily permit the easy separation, peeling, and stripping of said release sheet from each one of said blocks of adhesive material.

28. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

providing each one of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs), having said substantially L-shaped configurations comprising said normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg members and said normally vertically oriented relatively long leg members, with a predetermined lateral width dimension; and

providing said single release sheet with a predetermined lateral width dimension which is greater than said predetermined lateral width dimension of each one of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) such that side edge portions of said single release sheet extend beyond side edge portions of each one of said plurality of temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs).

29. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim ~~34~~ 36, further comprising the step of:

using a stripper plate to cause said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers, disposed within said collated array of pavement markers, to be separated from said

plurality of pavement markers, disposed within said collated array of pavement markers so as to be capable of being applied to the pavement surface, as a result of said single release sheet being routed around said stripper plate so as to strip said single release sheet from said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers in order to expose said block of adhesive material disposed upon said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers such that said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers can be fixedly applied to the pavement surface.

30. (Previously Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 29, further comprising the step of:

indexably moving an indexable roller, around which said single release sheet is routed, for indexably moving said single release sheet predetermined distances so as to serially dispense individual ones of said pavement markers at predetermined times such that said pavement markers will be fixedly applied onto the pavement surface at the predeterminedly spaced positions located along the pavement surface.

31. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

operatively connecting a drive motor to said indexable roller; and

operatively connecting a program logic controller (PLC) to said drive motor so as to energize said drive motor at predetermined times so as to cause said drive motor to operate said indexable roller at predetermined times in order to indexably advance said single release sheet with respect to said stripper plate.

32. (Previously Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

securing said block of adhesive material to said normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs);

separating and removing said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers from said single release sheet such that said separated and removed leading one of said plurality of pavement markers has an orientation wherein said normally vertically oriented relatively long leg member of

each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) is oriented horizontally so as to be disposed upon the pavement surface, while said normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) is oriented vertically; and

using an applicator wheel to rollably engage said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers disposed upon the pavement surface so as to cause each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) to be re-oriented wherein said normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) is oriented horizontally whereby said leading one of said plurality of pavement markers is able to be fixedly secured to the pavement surface at a predetermined one of the predeterminedly spaced positions located along the pavement surface as a result of said block of adhesive material secured to said normally horizontally oriented relatively short leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) being secured to the pavement surface, while said normally vertically oriented relatively long leg member of each one of said temporary raised pavement markers (TRPMs) is oriented vertically so as to perform its pavement marker function.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) Apparatus for serially dispensing and applying a collated array of pavement markers onto a pavement surface, comprising:

means for forming a collated, serial, nested array of pavement markers, comprising a plurality of pavement markers respectively having upper surface portions and undersurface portions, wherein said plurality of pavement markers are adhered upon a single release sheet, at predeterminedly spaced positions located along said single release sheet, by means of a block of adhesive material which is fixedly secured to said undersurface portion of each one of said plurality of pavement markers and which is separable from said single release sheet so as to fixedly adhere each one of said plurality of pavement markers to a pavement surface when said plurality of pavement markers are individually applied onto

the pavement surface, and wherein further, successive ones of said plurality of pavement markers are disposed in a nested array with an undersurface portion of one of said plurality of pavement markers disposed in contact with an upper surface portion of a successive one of said plurality of pavement markers; and

means for repetitively causing leading ones of said plurality of pavement markers, defining said collated, serial, nested array of pavement markers disposed upon said single release sheet, to be separated and removed from said single release sheet, and from the remaining ones of said plurality of pavement markers forming said collated, serial, nested array of pavement markers disposed upon said single release sheet, and for repetitively applying said separated and removed leading ones of said plurality of pavement markers to predeterminedly spaced positions located along the pavement surface,

whereby said plurality of pavement markers are dispensed and applied to the predeterminedly spaced positions located along the pavement surface so as to form a serial array of said plurality of pavement markers upon the pavement surface.

36. (New) A method for serially dispensing and applying a collated array of pavement markers onto a pavement surface, comprising the steps of:

forming a collated, serial, nested array of pavement markers, comprising a plurality of pavement markers respectively having upper surface portions and undersurface portions, wherein said plurality of pavement markers are adhered upon a single release sheet, at predeterminedly spaced positions located along said single release sheet, by means of a block of adhesive material which is fixedly secured to an undersurface portion of each one of said plurality of pavement markers and which is separable from said single release sheet so as to fixedly adhere each one of said plurality of pavement markers to a pavement surface when said plurality of pavement markers are individually applied onto the pavement surface, and wherein further, successive ones of said plurality of pavement markers are disposed in a nested array with an undersurface portion of one of said plurality of pavement markers disposed in contact with an upper surface portion of a successive one of said plurality of pavement markers; and

repetitively causing leading ones of said plurality of pavement markers, defining said collated, serial, nested

array of pavement markers upon said single release sheet, to be separated and removed from said single release sheet, and from the remaining ones of said plurality of pavement markers forming said collated, serial, nested array of pavement markers disposed upon said single release sheet, and for repetitively applying said separated and removed leading ones of said plurality of pavement markers to predeterminedly spaced positions located along the pavement surface,

whereby said plurality of pavement markers are dispensed and applied to the predeterminedly spaced positions located along the pavement surface so as to form a serial array of said plurality of pavement markers upon the pavement surface.